MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 28, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

2. Attendance

Executive Committee Present: Kevin Braude, Ray Rokni, Andy Lebovitz, Edna Schrank, Scott Rogoff, Jill Olefsky, Roz Mokhtarian, Robyn Rosengard, Charlotte Stern, Rick Dissen, Ron Rabinowitz, Frannie Goldwin, and Sue Lampert.

Trustees Present: Cheryl Braude, Harold Dembo, Hillary Elkins, Debbie Hamilton, Jill Hartzman, Steve Lessman, Diana Lewis, Lawrence Levine, Hannah Mackler, Leehe Milligan, Elissa Pelts, Fern Roseman, Neil Rosengard, Carly Sear, Susan Shapiro, Laura Shulman, Lauren Stein, Andrew Wagner, Justin Walder, Steve Zaacks, and Jackie Zelkowitz.

Excused: Leatte Gelfeld, Becky Becker, Liz Neiberg, Michael Stern, Ellen Grossman and Arlen Lasinsky.

Past Presidents Present: Michael Balter, Larry Grossman, Jack Knopoff, Brian Miller, Glen Roter, Deborah Solomon, and Tanya Solomon.

Clergy and Staff Present: Rabbi Chapman, Rabbi Honig, Lauri Holmes, Tab Scribner, Cantor Stoehr, Alyssa Arkin, and Michael Garlin.

3. President's Welcome

The President welcomed the Board and thanked those who contributed to the High Holiday services and programming.

4. D'Var Torah

Rabbi Honig delivered the D'Var Torah.

5. Consent Agenda

The August 2026 Board of Trustees minutes were approved as presented.

6. President's Report

- Alyssa Arkin was welcomed as the new Director of Youth and Family Engagement.
- The President thanked the clergy, High Holiday Committee, staff, service leaders, readers, shofar blowers, ushers, youth-service volunteers, facilities staff, and security team for their contributions to the High Holiday services.
- Board members were reminded to sign up for a committee if they have not already done so.

- Cantor Stoehr's sabbatical was noted as October 11 through November 11.
- The President noted the continuing need for additional participants in weekday minyanim. Members interested in joining the local WhatsApp group used for minyan alerts were asked to contact Kevin Braude or Tami Rokni.

7. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive Director thanked Board members and ushers for their participation during the High Holidays.
- The search for a clergy assistant continues so that Lisa Weisner can transition into her new role.
- Beginning the following month, security responsibilities will be shared, with Lisa Weisner taking on part of the responsibility.
- Donations to the Yom Kippur appeal were still being received.
- Membership continues to grow, with additional information expected at the October meeting.

8. CBS Mission Moment

Jack Knopoff shared remarks about seeing his daughters Roz Mokhtarian and Elissa Pelts participate in High Holiday services and expressed his pride and appreciation for their involvement being the next generation of Beth Shalom members and leaders.

9. Executive Committee and Vice President Reports

Youth and Family Programming VP

- Robyn Rosengard, Youth Vice President, presented an overview of the committee's strategic goals and current programming which support the third area of focus in the strategic plan: aligning programming with the needs of the congregation and community.
- Youth programming has been restructured under the leadership of Carly Sear, with Alyssa Arkin and Tab Scribner assisting.
- Two youth lounge programs were held in September. The September 17 program included icebreakers and pizza and was attended by approximately five youth participants.
- Families with Young Children programming was offered throughout the late summer and High Holiday season. Reported attendance included: Ark Adventures on Rosh Hashanah Day 1 — 470 across both seatings; Camp Shofar on Rosh Hashanah Day 1 — 120 children; Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Families with Young Children Service — 130; Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Tefillah and Tikkun — 60; Yom Kippur Families with Young Children Service — 400 across both seatings; Tale of the Whale — 160, sold out; and Camp Shofar on Yom Kippur — 130 children.
- The committee is working to relaunch and strengthen USY programming and to continue expanding Families with Young Children programming.
- Due to strong registration, the second-day Rosh Hashanah Families with Young Children program was moved to Wood Oaks Junior High School.

Finance

- Rick Dissen reported that year-end financial information will be presented in October.

- Laurie Holmes reported there are 22 units in Circle of Giving and has raised $242,000.

Programming

- Scott Rogoff reminded the Board about the distinguished speaker program scheduled for October 18 at 6:30 p.m. Advance registration is requested.
- A question regarding the Scholar-in-Residence program at Temple Beth El in Northbrook was addressed.

Development

- Ray Rokni reported on planning for the annual fundraising program May 16, 2027 might be a homecoming type event.
- Members were asked to assist with development events and fundraising activities. The importance of development revenue to the congregation's budget was emphasized.
- Board members who have not yet joined a committee were reminded that they may be asked to participate on the Development Committee.

10. Old Business

There was no old business.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Good and Welfare

- Condolences were extended on the passing of Jay Wolke, brother of longtime member and past president Joe Wolke.
- Condolences were extended on the passing of Jerry Gottstein, brother-in-law of Bob Spector.
- Congratulations were extended to the Shapiro family on the birth of a granddaughter.

13. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Robyn Rosengard moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Debbie Solomon seconded the motion. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.